

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 DPW-01 SS-15 PM-04
SP-02 L-03 INR-07 EB-08 H-01 /066 W
-----311052Z 088553 /11

P 311030Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6320

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 2438

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ICRC, VN, UN
SUBJ: ICRC EXPRESSES INTEREST IN POSSIBLE US AID TO
VIETNAM

1. IN COURSE LUNCHEON CONVERSATION TODAY ICRC'S OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JEAN-PIERRE HOCKE EXPRESSED TO MISSOFF GREAT INTEREST IN OUTCOME OF WOODCOCK MISSION. HOCKE INQUIRED PARTICULARLY CONCERNING VIETNAMESE REACTIONS TO APPROACHES ON MIA, RELEASE OF AMERICAN DEPENDENTS STILL IN VIETNAM, AND NOTABLY, ON RETURN "REVERSE BABY-LIFT". MISSOFF RESPONDED ON BASIS OF REPORTS THAT HAVE APPEARED IN MEDIA, INCLUDING DEATH AND RETURN OF BODY OF TUCKER GOUGELMAN, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ICRC HAD BEEN SEEKING ON OUR BEHALF (HOCKE HAD JUST RETURNED TO GENEVA FROM EXTENDED TRIP TO INDIA AND POLAND, AND WAS POORLY INFORMED ON RECENT WESTERN REPORTING OF THIS SUBJECT.)

2. PROCEEDING FROM THIS, HOCKE REFERRED TO ICRC'S ONGOING PROGRAM IN VIETNAM AND TO THE CURRENT SEVERE SHORTAGES OF RICE AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS THERE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE STATED THAT SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS LEAD TO USG DECISION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, HE WOULD HOPE THAT ICRC'S AVAILABILITY AS A CHANNEL FOR PROVISION OF MATERIAL AID

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MIGHT BE KEPT IN MIND. SPECIFICALLY, HE STATED, WHILE ICRC WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO EQUIPPED TO MANAGE A MASSIVE FOOD RELIEF PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO DISTRIBUTE ANY QUANTITIES BETWEEN 20,000 AND 50,000 TONS OF GRAINS, WHICH ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED. FOOD SUPPLIES WITHIN THIS RANGE WOULD DOVETAIL VERY NICELY WITH ICRC'S CURRENT VIETNAMESE PROGRAM AND COULD BE READILY AND EFFICITNLY CONTROLLED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. (1) PLEASE ADVISE MISSION OF ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION CONCERNING OUTCOME OF WOODCOCK MISSION WHICH MIGHT BE SHARED WITH HOCKE. (2) AS AND WHEN AVAILABLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANY REACTION TO HOCKE'S SUGGESTION THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE IN GRAIN FOR VIETNAM MIGHT BE CHANNELED THROUGH ICRC.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA02438
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770110-0545
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977034/aaaaacvj.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11b4d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3048818
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICRC EXPRESSES INTEREST IN POSSIBLE US AID TO VIETNAM
TAGS: EAID, VN, US, ICRC, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11b4d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009